



## Representative Cheryl Pflug

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Vice Chair: House Republican Caucus

**Committees:**  
Appropriations  
Children & Family Services  
Trade & Economic Development  
Technology, Telecommunications  
& Energy



# 2001

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT 5<sup>th</sup> District

SERVING THE CITIZENS OF SOUTH AND EAST KING COUNTY,  
INCLUDING THE SAMMAMISH PLATEAU, SNOQUALMIE  
VALLEY, MAPLE VALLEY, ISSAQUAH, NORTH BEND, BLACK  
DIAMOND, ENUMCLAW AND EASTERN RENTON.

March 2001

Dear Neighbors,

The 2001 legislative session is under way, and it promises to be one of the most challenging in years for lawmakers in the Washington House of Representatives.

We appreciate being allowed to work on your behalf. Our plan for this session is one that reflects the priorities we've heard throughout the communities of the 5<sup>th</sup> District: traffic congestion relief, excellent schools, sound energy policy, and more efficient government.

When it comes to measuring government's performance with your tax dollars, many of you have told us, "We want our money's worth, or we want our money back." We share that feeling, and it will guide us over the next few months as a new state budget is prepared.

President Abraham Lincoln once said, "At the heart of the public trust is trusting the people." This is the people's government, and as your state representatives, we encourage you to write or call us with your questions and advice. Your input helps us represent your concerns accurately in Olympia as we serve you. This newsletter provides some details of what we are currently doing on your behalf. Your feedback is most welcome. Also, if you are having difficulty with any state agency, please give us a call so that we may assist you.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Pflug

Glenn Anderson



## Representative Glenn Anderson

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**Committees:**  
Transportation Budget & Policy  
Education (Co-Vice Chair)  
Technology, Telecommunications  
& Energy



**Toll-free: 1-800-562-6000**

## OUR FIRST PRIORITY:

### A RESPONSIBLE, SUSTAINABLE STATE BUDGET

The biggest issue before the Legislature is the two-year operating budget. **The cost of continuing current services combined with the cost of the education initiatives approved by voters in November will exceed our available revenues by \$553 million.** In addition, we need to make substantial investments in transportation infrastructure to relieve congestion.

Over the years, government has added layers of spending programs, which current revenues cannot support. Some of these programs should be trimmed or eliminated, but the governor's budget proposal



includes deep cuts in services to some of the most needy in our community, including the developmentally disabled and Medicaid elderly. **We will be looking for ways to improve efficiency and increase government accountability with your tax dollars as we make tough decisions about priorities.**

For example, Rep. Pflug is sponsoring House Bill 1390, which will remove disincentives to employment for individuals with disabilities by allowing them to continue their health care coverage when they return to work.

Rep. Anderson is sponsoring House Bill 1695, which can save our local community public health and safety networks that were eliminated in the governor's proposed budget. This bill also would require performance audits to determine which services now provided by the state Department of Social and Health Services and its Olympia bureaucracy would be provided better at the local level.

## TRANSPORTATION:

### GETTING US WHERE WE NEED TO GO

While we have secured funding for many critical transportation projects here in our legislative district, much more needs to be done throughout our region. We must make practical choices that will get the most for our transportation dollars.

The Legislature needs to step forward with short-term solutions, for immediate traffic relief, and a comprehensive long-term plan to build an infrastructure capable of supporting our economy and the quality of life we expect. Before we ask for any new tax money, we need to be sure we are making the most of what we have. We must also have a plan that will relieve traffic congestion, make our highways safer, keep our

economy strong, and most importantly, get us home to our families sooner at the end of each day.

Rep. Pflug continues to sit on the I-405 and Trans-Lake Studies groups, advocating for effective congestion-relief proposals. As a member of the House Transportation Committee, Rep. Anderson is working to hold Sound Transit accountable with House Bill 1615. It would give transit district voters the opportunity to vote whether to

continue the project, or shift their tax dollars to other efforts to relieve traffic congestion. While this measure has wide support in our area, Democrats are not expected to allow it to pass.



# Legislative Session Report

## EDUCATION:

### OUR PARAMOUNT DUTY

We must provide teachers with the tools and flexibility required for them to do their jobs. That includes ensuring voter-approved dollars reach the classroom level, while decreasing unnecessary paperwork. Safe, drug-free learning environments are essential. Rep. Anderson, the new Republican vice chair of the House Education Committee, is sponsoring a measure to provide, for the first time, a "best financial practices" standard for school districts statewide. This bill is focused on gaining maximum value for each dollar spent to operate our schools.

We are facing a critical shortage of teachers in Washington. While cost of living increases may help, it is apparent that more needs to be done to attract and retain the kind of individuals we want for our children. We will be examining a variety of measures to address this looming problem.

For example, Rep. Pflug's House Bill 1688 would adjust teacher salaries to accommodate regional differences in buying power, and Rep. Anderson's House Bill 1607 would provide for school district-based, alternative certification routes for "para-educators" and business professionals to become certified teachers in critical shortage areas such as math, science and special education.



## COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Let's put our neighborhoods and quality of life first by lengthening mandatory jail time for sex offenders, so the courts can't take away our ability to keep these violent predators off our streets for a long, long time. This has been made more difficult by recent court rulings.

Rep. Pflug is working for funding of the special commitment centers for those offenders who have served their time and must be released, but are still far too dangerous to be allowed to be free in our communities.



## ENERGY:

### IT'S MORE THAN KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON

Washington hasn't seen a major investment in new power-generating facilities in a quarter-century. Since 1996 the governor has twice vetoed proposed incentives for companies that want to build power plants in our state, or upgrade their facilities to produce more energy.

Now a year with unusually little rain and snow, in combination with California's self-inflicted energy disaster, has revealed how marginal our state's power resources have become. Energy rates at some public utilities in our region have already soared more than 40 percent, and further increases can be expected.

In the near term, we must be cautious not to sacrifice our ability to protect Washington's environment and resources, particularly salmon habitat and water for local cities and agriculture, in order to support irresponsible policies in California. However, Washington is not an island. **Stable, affordable energy policy must include reciprocal agreements throughout the Western states, conservation incentives, and most importantly, new generation capacity.**

As members of the Technology, Telecommunications and Energy Committee, Reps. Anderson and Pflug are pushing for a reasonable approval process that will allow us to build new, safe, and environmentally sensible power generating facilities in our state. Rep. Anderson also has introduced House Bill 1405, to provide tax incentives for industrial firms to build self-sufficient, onsite co-generation facilities that would reduce their reliance on market-rate electricity and **protect jobs.**

## YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES

### GLENN ANDERSON

Glenn is a business management consultant with 18 years' experience in banking and working with emerging growth companies. He has an economics degree from the University of Alabama with emphasis on international trade and community development. This is Glenn's first year in the House of Representatives serving the 5<sup>th</sup> Legislative District.

He is a board member for the Children's Services of Snoqualmie Valley and the Washington National Parks Fund. Glenn and his wife Elisabeth, a telecommunications professional, make their home near Fall City.

### CHERYL PFLUG

A critical care nurse, Cheryl earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Washington. This is Cheryl's second term in the House of Representatives. She has previously served as vice chair of the House Health Care Committee and a member of the House Transportation Committee. This year, Cheryl serves on the House Appropriations (spending) Committee, Technology, Telecommunications and Energy, the Trade and Economic Development Committee, and Children and Family Services. She was also chosen as vice chair of the House Republican Caucus.

A 30-year resident of our community, Cheryl and her husband, Bryan, have been married 20 years and have four school-age children.

#### 5TH DISTRICT DAY AT YOUR STATE CAPITOL!

Join us in Olympia on March 22 for 5<sup>th</sup> District Day. You'll have an opportunity to tour the Capitol building and the Supreme Court. It is also a great time to see the Legislature in session. We'll have lunch together and discuss issues important to you. Be sure to bring a sack lunch, or you can purchase lunch at the Capitol cafeteria.

**DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 22**

**TIME: 9:30 A.M. - MEET IN THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA.**

Call for reservations - (360) 786-7852. Or clip out the following information and return it by March 15.

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to attend 5<sup>th</sup> District Day. How many people attending? \_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Clip out and mail to: Rep. Cheryl Pflug, P.O. Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600



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